

REMARKS

Prior to entry of this Amendment and Response, claims 1-19 are pending in the application. Following entry of this paper, claims 2-6, 8, 10-12, 14, 15 and 17 will be pending. By this Amendment, the Assignee cancels claims 1, 7, 9, 13, 16, 18 and 19, but reserves the right to further prosecute these claims in a continuation or divisional application.

1. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) - Havener

The Examiner rejected claims 1-5 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Havener (U.S. Patent No. 3,341,909). For at least the following reason, the Assignee respectfully disagrees.

Claim 1 was canceled, thus eliminating the Examiner's rejection.

The Assignee has incorporated the limitations of claims 7 and 9 into independent claim 2. As discussed in more detail below in the section entitled "Allowable Subject Matter", claim 9 was allowable in independent form. Thus, claim 2 is allowable as amended.

Claims 3-5 depend, either directly or indirectly, from independent claim 2. Accordingly, these claims are also patentable. The Applicant makes this statement without reference to the independent bases of patentability contained within each claim. The Applicant therefore requests the Examiner withdraw his rejections and allow the dependent claims over the references of record.

2. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103- Fujieda and Tsikos

The Examiner rejected claims 6-8, 10-12, 14, 15 and 17 under U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Havener in view of Aubert (U.S. Patent No. 2,042,086). For at least the following reason, the Assignee respectfully disagrees.

Claim 7 was canceled, thus eliminating the Examiner's rejection.

The Assignee has incorporated the limitations of claim 13 into independent claim 11. As discussed in more detail below in the section entitled "Allowable Subject Matter", claim 13 was allowable in independent form. Thus, claim 11 is allowable as amended.

The Assignee has incorporated the limitations of claim 16 into independent claim 14. As discussed in more detail below in the section entitled "Allowable Subject Matter", claim 16 was allowable in independent form. Thus, claim 14 is allowable as amended.

Claims 6, 8 and 10 depend, either directly or indirectly, from independent claim 2, previously shown to be patentable. Claim 12 depends from patentably distinct independent claim 11. Similarly, claims 15 and 17 depend from patentably distinct claim 14. Accordingly, these claims are also patentable. The Applicant makes this statement without reference to

the independent bases of patentability contained within each claim. The Applicant therefore requests the Examiner withdraw his rejections and allow the dependent claims over the references of record.

3. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)- Flora et al.

The Examiner rejected claim 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Flora et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,711,397). Although the Assignee respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's rejection, it has canceled claim 19 to expedite allowance of the application. The Assignee reserves the right to prosecute this claim in a continuation, continuation-in-part, or divisional application.

4. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)- Flora et al.

The Examiner rejected claim 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Flora et al. Although the Assignee respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's rejection, it has canceled claim 19 to expedite allowance of the application. The Assignee reserves the right to prosecute this claim in a continuation, continuation-in-part, or divisional application.

5. Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner objected to claims 9, 13 and 16 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but states that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. As such, Assignee has cancelled claims 7 and 9 and incorporated their limitations into independent claim 2. Thus, claim 2 is effectively an independent version of non-canceled claim 9. Similarly, the Assignee has canceled claim 13 and incorporated the claim into independent claim 11. Lastly, Assignee has canceled claim 16 and incorporated the claim into independent claim 14. The Assignee therefore respectfully submits amended claims 2, 11 and 14 are allowable in light of the Examiner's prior remarks regarding claims 9, 13 and 16.

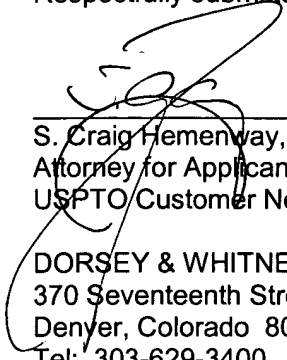
6. Conclusion

This Amendment is submitted in response to Office Action dated November 16, 2004. It is submitted contemporaneously with a petition for a three-month extension of time in accordance with 37 CFR § 1.136(a). Accordingly, please charge Deposit Account No. 04-1415 in the amount of \$1,020.00 for a three-month extension of time. The Applicant believes no further fees or petitions are required. However, if any such petitions or fees are necessary, please consider this a request therefor and authorization to charge Deposit Account No. 04-1415 accordingly.

If the Examiner should require any additional information or amendment, please
contact the undersigned attorney.

Dated: 16 May 2005.

Respectfully submitted,



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